

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of October 6, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 and cancels 2 and 6. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification and claim 6 because of editorial informalities or inconsistencies. Applicant submits that the objections are now believed to be moot in view of the amendments to the Specification and the claims. No new matter has been added into the Specification.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,184); rejected claims 1-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,667,854); rejected claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,413,657); rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Epson Corp. (JP 01-244430 A); rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Yamada et al.; rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Scheuble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,308,535); rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Hanmer et al. (WO 98/00475 A1); rejected claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Scheuble et al. Applicant traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a liquid crystal layer on the alignment layer that includes an additive, the additive including dimethylsiloxane, wherein forming the liquid crystal layer further includes coating the liquid crystal including the additive and plasticizing the liquid crystal on the substrate, and wherein the additive is spontaneously disposed in an interface between the liquid crystal layer and air when forming the liquid crystal layer on the alignment

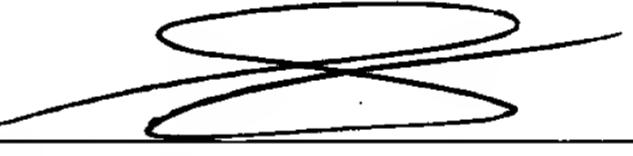
layer, and the additive does not react with the liquid crystal during the plasticizing of the liquid crystal." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 3-5 and 7-9, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: January 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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